IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly rewrite the following paragraphs of the Specification, as follows:

The paragraph appearing at page 1, lines 5-8:

The invention relates to a seal arrangement for reducing the seal gaps within a rotary flow machine, preferably an axial turbomachine~~, according to the preamble of claim 1~~. Such an arrangement is disclosed in DE-A1-198 48 103.

The paragraph appearing at page 10, lines 10-15:

Fig. 1a represents a partial cross-sectional representation through two immediately adjacent opposite platforms 21, 31 of two blade/vane roots 2, 3, which extend in the peripheral direction (see arrow) on a rotor/stator arrangement 1 and which protrude for fastening purposes into the ~~rotor~~ arrangement 1.

The paragraph appearing at page 6, lines 16-34:

An aspect of the ~~The~~ invention~~, as characterized in the claims,~~ is based on the object of developing a seal arrangement for reducing the seal gaps within a rotary flow machine, preferably an axial turbomachine, having rotor blades and guide vanes, which are respectively arranged in at least one rotor blade row and guide vane row and have respective blade/vane roots which protrude into fastening contours within the rotor blade and guide vane rows, in such a way that, during the hot operating behavior of the turbomachine, an optimum minimum seal gap forms between two adjacent blade/vane roots, which seal gap reduces a possibly existing leakage flow effectively and in an optimum manner, on the one hand, and, on the other, does not cause any compressive forces, between the blade/vane roots, which stress - in a damaging fashion - the blade/vane roots fastened in the peripheral direction of a blade/vane row. The seal arrangement should, furthermore, be resistant to high temperature and oxidation and, in consequence, have a long life.

The paragraph appearing at page 8, line 31, to page 9, line 2:

The use of metal foams is also conceivable in the form of nickel or nickel alloy foams, cobalt or cobalt alloy foams, ~~or also~~ aluminum or aluminum alloy foams, or combinations thereof. These can be applied by means of a brazing/soldering or welding process to the respective side flank of a blade/vane root and can be permanently joined to the latter.

Delete the paragraph appearing at page 9, lines 23-25.

Insert the following new paragraphs at page 9, line 26:

Another aspect of the present invention includes that a sealing element is firmly connected to at least one platform.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that a sealing element is connected to a platform by a bonded connection.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that a sealing element and a platform form a metallurgical combination.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that a sintered metal includes a homogeneously baked combination of NiAl, FeAl, or CoAl.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that plastic deformation of a sealing element takes place substantially laterally relative to a place of a seal gap.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that a platform or platforms and a component when directly adjoining the platform have a contour protruding into one another, a sealing element positioned at least on a contour part facing toward the aerofoils.

Another aspect of the present invention includes that there is at least one cooling duct.

The paragraph appearing at page 12, lines 1-12:

~~Finally,~~ Fig. 5 shows the plan view onto two guide vanes with associated platforms, arranged along a guide vane row, which platforms are arranged one beside the other along the two side edges 73, 83. In this arrangement, the sealing elements 4 provided on the two side flanks 73 and 83 are dimensioned in such a way that a hot gap appears which is as uniformly minimum as possible. This is made more difficult by the occurrence of tipping of the two platforms 7, 8, relative to one another. This can, however, be taken into account by an appropriate choice of layer thickness for the sealing elements 4.

Insert the following new paragraph at page 12, line 21:

As described above, each of the foregoing the adjoining pieces 7, 8 to be sealed can also be rotary machine components and/or vane or blade root platforms.